

Request for Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Designation
Optimae LifeServices
March 12, 2021

DHS recommends Optimae to be the designated CMHC for Des Moines, Jefferson, and Lee. Under previous law, counties were responsible to designate CMHCs and could request a waiver to designate a mental health service provider in lieu of a CMHC. Optimae was designated as the mental health service provider for these counties and since then has been operating as the CMHC. Optimae provided evidence that they meet the requirements of Iowa Code 230A, Community Mental Health Centers. Optimae requested Henry and Van Buren, but DHS is not recommending designation for these two counties. These counties are currently designated to other CMHCs and exceptional circumstances do not exist for the designation of another CMHC.

Optimae is eligible for CMHC designation due to:

- Chapter 24 accreditation as a mental health service provider for the following services:
 - Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation
 - Evaluation
 - Outpatient psychotherapy
 - Emergency services
 - Supported community living
- For profit organization designated as a mental health service provider in lieu of a CMHC prior to 2010 for all counties in recommended catchment area. Optimae is not eligible to receive mental health block grant dollars due to their for-profit status.

Optimae meets all CMHC requirements in recommended catchment area:

- Ability to serve the target population in all counties with minimal to no denials:
 - Individuals of any age experiencing a mental health crisis
 - Individuals of any age who have a mental health disorder
 - Adults who have a serious mental illness or chronic mental illness
 - Children and youth who are experience a serious emotional disturbance
 - Individuals identified above who have a co-occurring disorder
- Ability to serve consumers from outside the catchment area and arrange placements outside the catchment area when appropriate
- Provide CMHC core services in all counties:
 - Outpatient services
 - Emergency services
 - Day treatment, partial hospitalization, or psychosocial rehabilitation services
 - Admission screening for voluntary patients
 - Community support services
 - Consultation services
 - Education services
 - Coordination with services provided by other agencies to the target population in the catchment area including residential and inpatient settings

Stakeholder Input

- DHS solicited input from six service providers in the proposed catchment area and received feedback from two.
 - One service provider was supportive of the designation for the counties not already part of another CMHCs catchment area
 - One service provider was not supportive of the designation for Lee and Des Moines Counties as they felt the area was sufficiently covered by current mental health providers
- DHS met with the South East Iowa Link CEO, RYANNE WOOD. RYANNE supports the designation and stated that Optimae is an important partner for the Region and provides many mental health services for both children and adults including crisis intervention services.